

A TRIBUTE TO THEODORE
BUTCHER**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a faithful Chester County man upon his retirement from West Chester University, where he served as a faculty member and administrator. Mr. Theodore Butcher's contributions to his family, community, and country deserve to be noted.

Over the past thirty years, Mr. Butcher has worked tirelessly to ensure fair and equitable treatment of people with regards to education, race, religion, economics and disabilities. He has given of himself both personally and financially to the causes in which he believes and for which he works. Through his community service with the West Chester Community Center, the Community Housing Resource Board, the Fair Housing Council, Mental Health/Mental Retardation, The Community Service Council of Chester County, The Swope Foundation, the West Chester Rotary Club, the YMCA, NAACP and on the original board of the Chester County Water Authority.

Clearly, this is a man with a deep commitment to his community. I can venture to say that Mr. Butcher has added much value to West Chester University and to Chester County, Pennsylvania. I am pleased to honor him today, and would like to submit for the RECORD a letter from his daughter Joacqueline Butcher. My congratulations and best wishes go with this community servant.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL
LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay special tribute to our letter carriers in Santa Barbara, California. On Saturday May 8, our local letter carriers will be participating in the seventh annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive, sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Our local letter carriers will be joining their fellow letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across the nation in collecting non-perishable food items and donations along their postal routes for local food banks. The Stamp Out Hunger food drive is expected to help feed nearly thirty million needy children and adults in our communities.

On behalf of the people on the Central Coast and across the nation, I would like to thank our letter carriers for their leadership in this very worthy cause.

TRIBUTE TO THE GRAN PARADA
DOMINICANA DE EL BRONX, INC.
ON THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to a great organization, the "Gran Parada Dominicana de El Bronx, Inc." which celebrates its tenth anniversary of celebrating Dominican culture in my South Bronx Congressional District today, Monday, May 3rd, 1999.

The Gran Parada Dominicana de El Bronx, Inc. was created on May 3, 1990. Each year thousands of members and friends of the Dominican community march from Mt. Eden and 172nd Street to East 161st Street and the Grand Concourse during the annual Great Dominican Parade and Carnival of the Bronx. Under its Founder and President, Felipe Febles, the parade has grown in size and splendor. It now brings together an increasing number of participants from all five New York City boroughs and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, as one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful to enable so many people to have this experience—one that will change the lives of many of them. It is always an honor for me to join the hundreds of joyful people who march each year and to savor the variety of their celebrations. There's no better way to see our Bronx community.

The event usually features a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. Past years' festivals included the performance of Merengue and Salsa bands, crafts exhibitions, and food typical of the Dominican Republic.

In addition to the parade, President Febles and many organizers each year provide the community with nearly two weeks of activities to commemorate the contributions of the Dominican community, its culture and history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Gran Parada Dominicana de El Bronx, Inc. and in wishing the Committee continued success.

TREVOR P. SCHMIDT WINS THE
VFW'S 1999 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
BROADCAST
SCRIPTWRITING CONTEST**HON. BILL BARRETT**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call my colleagues' attention to the following script written by my constituent, Trevor P. Schmidt, a senior at Chadron High School in Chadron, Nebraska. Trevor won the VFW's 1999 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest for Nebraska.

*"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA"*1998-99 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP
COMPETITION

The other day my friend Shawn and I went out to lunch. I was driving so I said, "Where

would you like to eat today, Shawn?" He said he didn't care, so we went where I wanted to go. Once we got there, Shawn started to complain like you wouldn't believe, and I thought to myself, what right do you have to complain? I gave you a choice, and you deferred to me. In America today, the constitution and our fellow citizens are asking us, "Where do we want to go today?" Unfortunately, the majority of Americans are saying, "I don't care". However, if you read the news, the majority of people do care. They are just not motivated enough to do anything about it. Oh sure they like to complain once they see where the country has ended up, but complaining can't move a speck of dust and it isn't going to help our country. Democracy is based around participation, and it is only successful when used properly. Like a car's engine, America can run using only part of its cylinders, but in order for America to reach its highest potential, all parts must be working at the same time.

Democracy is a tool just waiting to be picked up, but like any other tool it is useless until someone puts it to work. Throughout time, it has been used by a plethora of individuals, and now it is my time and the time of my peers. It is time for us to accept the torch of America that is slowly being passed down. We cannot let the flame die, so we must hold it high and let it light the way for the world. For many of my peers, action in Democracy will begin as they cast their votes in this fall's election. While I'm not able to join others in voting at this election because of my age, I have taken my own road to ensure that the tool of Democracy does not sit idle. Since voting was not an option for me, I wanted to ensure that those who did have the right to vote were making use of it. I approached the county clerk and arranged it so that I could be their extension. Over a course of three days, I worked for them and registered over fifteen new high school voters. While this really isn't comparable with running for office, it was something I could do to help my country. This action was just another step in my maturation as a citizen of democracy.

I began my service years ago, when as a child I first began to read. At first I only read simple stories, but as the years passed, I began to read and hear a much grander tale; one of a nation that rose up around a noble theory, a nation that was to be ruled by the people. I learned of America. I thrived on this utopian story for many years, but once again as time passed the story got more complex. I learned of the mistakes America and its people had made, and I learned of the great people who struggled to rectify these mistakes. I have absorbed many people's opinions over the years, and now I have my own and I know that I can give them voice.

Langston Hughes once wrote, "I too sing America, I too am America." This is where I stand now and forever, I will sing my voice along with my fellow Americans and though my voice may be lost in the chorus at times, I will keep singing, keep supporting my nation. A person singing a solo is limited to his/her options, but a choir combines each individual's choices into a complex splendor. Choral music depends on each member singing his or her own distinctive part. Sometimes the chords clash, and sometimes the parts slide into near unison; always each part must be heard. So too with democracy, I must speak my opinion, but I also must hear and accept my fellow citizen's opinion and recognize that my nation will be nothing with just my part. One thing that is of key importance though is that I must know my part; therefore, my quest for knowledge must never end. I must also encourage those around me to speak their mind. Even though I may not like what I hear, it is an essential